



JOHN L. SCOTT, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



October 22, 2014

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED
EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS CENTER
AND ROLE-PLAY TRAINING FACILITY**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) submitted our request to the Chief Executive Officer for new capital project funding in the amount of \$10,473,000 to construct a new Emergency Vehicle Operation Center (EVOC) and defensive survival tactics Role Play Training Facility on the Department's Pitchess Detention Center (PDC) property in Castaic. Unfortunately, no funding has been allocated for this project. This new facility is critical to the Department's ongoing training for our incoming deputy sheriff trainees, as well as tactical training for our in-service personnel.

EVOC

The Department's EVOC provides specialized instruction and maintenance of perishable skills in driving emergency vehicles. The instruction provided by EVOC is certified by the California Commission Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).

For more than 35 years, the EVOC facility has been located on the Los Angeles County (County) Fair Association's property in Pomona, where training has been provided to deputy sheriff trainees and police officers enrolled in the Department's Academy. In 1986 the County entered into a 56-year Ground Lease & Operating Agreement (Agreement) with the Fair Association to operate and maintain the fairground. The Agreement stated that the Fair Association shall allow the Department to use a portion of the fairground for automobile driver's training, riot control, and motorcycle training.

A Tradition of Service

This arrangement with the Fair Association has never been the ideal location due to Fairplex hosting the annual County Fair and two additional National Hot Rod Association events each year, which requires the Department to relocate the EVOC office and equipment off-site; and return upon completion of these major events. These annual events basically prohibited the Department from conducting any training for a period of 2-3 months. These relocation and shut-downs have reduced the actual training time for all driver and tactical related trainings. The Department historically accommodated these disruptions by scheduling training around them as requested by Fairplex. Approximately ten years ago, the disruptions to the EVOC training schedule increased as the Fairplex began permitting more events in the training area.

In an attempt to mitigate these disruptions, the Agreement with the Fair Association was amended in 2009 (Amendment), allowing the Department to access certain additional areas for training whenever Fairplex was not leasing those areas to outside entities for revenue producing events such as swap meets, recreational vehicle shows, and car shows. The Amendment also allowed the Department to construct a permanent office building in the Sunshine Hill area of the Fairgrounds. The Fair Association also agreed to give the Department full access to the entire training area during specific periods. However, these promised time periods became shorter as the vendors and permittees began taking longer to set up equipment for events occurring in the training area, and longer time to tear down and clean up after each event. These additional set up and tear down time further reduced the Department's training time on the fairground.

Predicting the actual length of times for these events and scheduling EVOC training around them has become very difficult. Consequently, the number of days the training area is actually usable has been shortened. Deputy sheriff trainees and first responders now receive significantly less training to safely drive emergency vehicles. In-service personnel no longer receive training to renew perishable emergency vehicle operation skills. EVOC training is now available solely for Academy deputy sheriff trainees and personnel who have been involved in traffic collisions.

POST Requirement

The situation became critical approximately one year ago when POST increased the requirement for deputy sheriff trainees to receive 40 hours of training, up from the previous 24 hours, and to also receive nighttime driver's training. The diminished access to the Fairgrounds facility has made it impossible to meet these new training standards.

POST also mandates that the Academy training curriculum follow a specific sequence in which one training element is a foundation for the next element. The Department has rearranged the Academy class schedules around the availability of the EVOC facility at the Fairgrounds, while also observing a negative impact to the level of training our personnel are receiving. The deputy sheriff trainees are struggling more and more with the Academy training, and we are beginning to see a decline in their grades, scores, and overall performance.

ROLE PLAY VILLAGE

The Department does not have a designated area where role-playing training is conducted. Law enforcement agencies throughout California and across the United States have recognized the value of sending their officers to modern academies that have incorporated driver's training into role-playing scenarios. By constructing a new facility to provide driver's training in a simulated urban environment, the Department will significantly improve the preparedness and capability of its personnel, and the quality of training received will be elevated to the same level received at other modern academies. Sufficient land is available in the Department's Pitchess Detention Center where a new EVOC Center and a Role Play Training Center can be constructed without creating an impact to any of the existing custody operations on site.

Conceptual Cost Estimate

The proposed EVOC and Role Play Training Center project is estimated to cost approximately \$10,473,000. The conceptual cost estimate includes the following:

• Driver Training Track	\$ 5,930,000
• Skid Pad	\$ 1,670,000
• Motorcycle Training	\$ 800,000
• New EVOC Training office and parking area	\$ 670,000
• Relocation of existing office from Fairground	\$ 323,000
• Role Play Training Center	\$ 150,000
• Replacement of Biscailuz Drive	<u>\$ 930,000</u>
Total	\$10,473,000

Proposed Project Activities and Funding Allocation

Fiscal Year 2014-15 - \$3,000,000

- Conduct topography survey for project site area
- Conduct Phase I Environmental survey of existing site including the identification of any hazardous material & underground contaminants
- Conduct geotechnical & soil investigations
- Prepare conceptual design and project scoping document
- Prepare EIR Documents

Fiscal Year 2015-16 - \$7,000,000

- Prepare final design & construction documents
- Issue construction documents for bidding
- Award contract for construction work

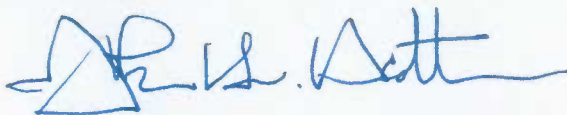
Fiscal Year 2016-17 - \$473,000

- Install communication equipment, furniture & furnishings and other training equipment
- Project close-out & occupancy

The Sheriff's Department is requesting funding to proceed with this critical project and would like to meet with you to discuss this project further.

Should you have any questions, please contact Gary T.K. Tse, Director, Facilities Planning Bureau, at (626) 300-3001.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John L. Scott". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

JOHN L. SCOTT
SHERIFF